(iii) all domestic supplies made to soft bonded IT units to be treated as 'deemed exports';

(iv) all benefits available to Export Oriented Units to be extended to soft bonded IT units;

(v) all banking in soft bonded IT units to be allowed in hard currencies;

(vi) fiscal incentives for exports made by soft bonded IT units; and

(vii) duty free import of capital goods, raw materials and piece parts by any unit manufacturing IT products or electronic components.

(c) Bringing down the import duty is likely to increase the velocity of business. However, it is also likely to have substantial revenue implications and apprehension has also been expressed that reduction of import duty to zero level may also have an adverse impact on domestic industry manufacturing these goods.

Import of Coins

2261. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. have recently decided to import coins; if so, the details thereof, indicating the countries from where such import is being done and the extent of imports;

(b) what circumstances have forced Government to import coins; and

(c) whether it is a fact that even Indian rupees are printed outside India; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The Government have decided to import 1000 million pieces of coins (Re. 1—300 MPCs, Rs. 2—300 MPCs and Rs. 5—400 MPCs) during 1999-2000. The coins will be imported on the basis of a global tender. The name's of the country/countries will be known only after the tender is finalised.

(b) The proposed import is to deal with shortage of coins in the country.

(c) Keeping in view the indigenous capacity of printing of currency notes and the requirement of Reserve Bank of India, the Government authorised import of 3600 million pieces of currency notes (Rs. 100—2000 MPCs and Rs. 500—1600 MPCs) as a one-time measure. The import was done by the Reserve Bank of India during 1997-98 and 1998-99 on the basis of a global tender.

Soiled notes in the North-Eastern Region

2262. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Reserve Bank, Guwahati has allowed continuance of one, two and five rupee old soiled notes in a very unhygenic and uncivilized manner in the North-Eastern Region which are nowhere accepted in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for still allowing continuance of such soiled notes knowing fully well about its health hazards;

(c) total quantity of coins that replaced old notes in the NER year-wise since introduction; and

(d) total number of such coins introduced in the country till date and State-wise percentage of distribution?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As a long term policy, Government has coinised notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and hence printing of notes of these denominations was stopped from September' 94; January'95 and November'95, respectively. while the notes remain legal tender, the intention of Government is to remove these notes from circulation. Facilities are already available at all public sector banks for exchange of soiled notes for coins; the RBI has recently introduced a special drive for exchange of soiled notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 at all its Issue Offices. This special drive has been given wide publicity by RBI in all

the national/regional dailies, requesting for co-operation of the public to exchange such soiled notes for coins.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Raod project loans approved by Asian Development Bank

2263. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many road project loans have been approved by Asian Development Bank during last one year; and

(b) what are the details of these loans?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Asian Development Bank has not approved any loan for Road project for India in the last one year.

अर्थ व्यवस्था को सुधारने के लिए पैकेज

2264. **श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार द्वारा अर्थ व्यवस्था में सुधार व पूंजी बाजार में गति प्रदान करने के लिए घोषित आठ-सूत्री पैकेज का तथा उसके फलस्वरूप भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में हुए सुधार का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या सरकार द्वारा उक्त पैकेज की घोषणा करने से पूर्व केबिनेट की स्वीकृति ली गई थी;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा): (क) योजना आयोग ने बताया है कि इसे अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए किसी आठ-सूत्री पैकेज के बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Diversion of funds from steel projects

2265. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "FIs will fund incomplete steel projects, says IDBI Chief" which appeared in the 'Economic Times', Calcutta dated the 5th February, 1999;

(b) if so, the exact reasons company-wise for which the projects could not be completed by steel companies mentioned in the aforesaid report;

(c) whether IDBI/Government are aware of the change of diversion of funds from some of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

आयकर छापों में शामिल कार्मिकों के लिए प्रोत्साहन

2266. **श्री मुनव्वर हसन:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) माह जनवरी/फरवरी, 1999 के दौरान देश में आयकर विभाग द्वारा मारे गए छापों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) इन छापों में कुल कितनी परिसम्पत्तियों का पता लगा;

(ग) क्या सरकार छापों में शामिल कार्मिकों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कोई प्रोत्साहन राशि देती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उक्त छापों में शामिल कार्मिकों को कितनी-कितनी प्रोत्साहन राशि दी गई अथवा देने का विचार है?

वित्त मंत्रालय (बैंकिंग, राजस्व तथा बीमा) में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादम्बूर एम० आर० जनार्दनन): (क) जनवरी और फरवरी, 1999 के माह के दौरान जांच निदेशालय ने 167 मामलों में तलाशी और अभिग्रहण संबंधी कार्यकलाप किये।

(ख) तलाशी के परिणामस्वरूप 64.53 करोड़ रुपये की अप्रकटित परिसम्पत्तियां जब्त की गई थीं।